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AUTHOR Drea, John T.
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ABSTRACT

Beginning in fall 1985, John Wood Community College (JWCC) is offering its students a guarantee that courses taken at the college will transfer to other institutions or the tuition paid by the student will be refunded. Each student applying for the Credit Transfer Guarantee must meet with a JWCC counselor. The student is responsible for indicating the institution he/she will attend and the courses to be transferred. The counselor consults articulation agreements and other sources and reports back to the student regarding the courses guaranteed to transfer. Both parties and the Dean of Student Services sign the agreement, which is official and binding. The guarantee is designed to encourage students to attend JWCC by reassuring them that the credits earned at the college can be used at other institutions. In addition, the guarantee is intended to deal with the issues of transferability particular to Illinois, where each institution determines independently which courses it will accept and where virtually no courses are universally transferable. Early student reaction to the guarantee has been positive and may encourage students planning their future to attend JWCC instead of a four-year college. A copy of the agreement and informational materials for students are appended. (HB)

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COLLEGE INTRODUCES MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE ON TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS

John T. Drea
Assistant to the President
John Wood Community College
Quincy, Illinois

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COLLEGE INTRODUCES MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE
ON TRANSFERABILITY OF CREDITS

By JOHN T. DREA

QUINCY, IL

Beginning in the fall of 1985, John Wood Community College will put its money where its mouth is on the transferability of credits. The College's Credit Transfer Guarantee will promise students that approved courses will transfer - or the tuition will be refunded.

The Credit Transfer Guarantee is the College's "no risk" answer to questions of credit transferability which have plagued many community colleges. "We decided to take the offensive," states John Wood President, Paul R. Heath. "We believe the guarantee is a strong, positive statement of our confidence in the curriculum and the ability of our counselors to work with articulation agreements. The 'tuition-back' provision should make it easy for everyone to identify with the guarantee."

Working with Counselor Key

Each student applying for the Credit Transfer Guarantee must meet with a John Wood counselor. The student is responsible for indicating the institution he will attend and which courses are to be transferred. The counselor consults articulation agreements and other sources, reporting back to the student as to which courses will be guaranteed transfer. Both parties and the Dean of Student Services sign the agreement and the guarantee is official and binding.

David G. Glendy, Dean of Student Services at John Wood, says the key is getting the counselor and the student together. "We can prevent most transfer problems by working with students as they develop their course schedules. The guarantee should encourage students to come to us in greater numbers."

John Wood has had difficulty receiving feedback on transferability, a situation typical of many new colleges. "The real problem is that we have not been aware of problems," says Heath, who has been President since the College began in 1975. "Students with transfer problems don't encounter difficulty until they actually transfer. When some credits have not transferred, students haven't told us. Instead, they have told their friends."

Rumors of transfer level courses that do not transfer have proved difficult to squelch. "No matter how many times we say 'Our courses do transfer!', we still hear the rumors," says Heath. Both Glendy and Heath are confident the guarantee will convince potential students and their families. "If a problem does come up during a credit transfer, we can resolve the situation," Heath added. "Students with problems have an incentive to return - money."

Unique College

Unique approaches to education are a way of life at John Wood. Located near the Mississippi River in Quincy, Illinois, the College is a fully accredited two year public institution with an annual FTE of 1800. John Wood utilizes an educational

"common market" to provide instruction to a small and predominantly rural district. The College contracts with small private colleges, proprietary schools, hospitals, corporations, and other agencies for 70% of its credit hours, reimbursing each on a per credit hour basis. 12% of the credit hours are generated through "open learning programs" of self paced, individualized instruction. John Wood also offers specific programs not otherwise available through the "common market", including broadcast electronics, practical nursing, and swine management.

John Wood and other Illinois community colleges have wrestled with the issue of transferability for years. In Illinois, each institution determines independently which courses it will accept. The result, according to Glendy, is that there are virtually no courses universally transferrable.

Asked to characterize the situation for students wanting to transfer, Glendy responded, "It is one of complexity. You need a guide to get through it without losing credits. Our counselors are the guides, and with the guarantee, the students have another reason to use them."

Early student reaction regarding the guarantee has been positive. "I think it will encourage students planning their future to attend John Wood instead of moving away to a four year school," said Alan Donley, a second year agriculture student and a member of the John Wood Board of Trustees. "Students will know they can come here for two years and transfer everything. I think the guarantee will be a big asset."

* * * *

For more information, contact David G. Glendy, Dean of Student Services, John Wood Community College, 150 South 48th Street, Quincy, Illinois, 62301. Telephone (217)224-6500.

TERMS OF THE GUARANTEE

John Wood Community College agrees to pay or reimburse to you the tuition for any course listed on the front side of this form if the transferee institution declines to transfer or accept the course credit for some purpose and:

1. You take and successfully complete the course during the term stated;

2. You earn at least a grade of "C" for the course;

3. You are accepted by and actually transfered to the transferee institution within three (3) years from the date this guarantee is issued;

4. You promptly apply to have the course credit transferred to and accepted by the transferree institution upon your transfer;

5. You make a claim under this guarantee as provided below within four (4) years from the date this guarantee is issued;

6. You cooperate fully with John Wood Community College in its efforts to have the credit transferred or accepted by the transferee institution, including giving any necessary consents or releases regarding student records; and,

7. You are not granted course credit at the transferee institution within one hundred twenty (120) days after your claim is received, during which time John Wood Community College will attempt to have the transferee institution reverse its earlier decision not to accept the course credit.

This guarantee does not guarantee that the letter grade earned at John Wood Community College for the course will be considered by the transferee institution for determining your grade point average, honors or other purposes, but only that the transferee institution will give course credit for some purpose. This guarantee does not provide for the refund of tuition for any other course(s), any fees or any incidental or consequential expenses or claims whatsoever, but only the tuition for the course(s) guaranteed for which course credit is not given by the transferee institution.

Your rights under this guarantee are personal and may not be assigned or transferred, voluntarily or involuntarily. Further, no refund is required or will be made if the scholarship, financial aid program, loan or other source used to pay the tuition prohibits payment or reimbursement of tuition directly to you.

To make a claim, you must notify the Dean of Student Services of John Wood Community College in writing within sixty (60) days after learning that course credit has been declined or refused by the transferee institution, the reasons, if any, given for the action, and the name, position, address and telephone number of the person who processed your application for credit transfer or acceptance. Copies of any correspondence, transfer evaluation or other documentation provided to or received from the transferee institution regarding your transfer application must accompany the notice.

JOHN WOOD COMMUNITY COLLEGE

CREDIT TRANSFER GUARANTEE

The John Wood Community College Credit Transfer Guarantee assures you that credit for an approved course taken at John Wood Community College will transfer to an institution of your choice, or that tuition for the course will be refunded, subject to the terms of the guarantee set forth on the reverse side of this form. To obtain a guarantee, you need only complete the information below in cooperation with your John Wood Community College counselor, and have the guarantee approved by the Dean of Student Services.

STUDENT: _____ TERM: _____

This John Wood Community College Credit Transfer Guarantee is made with respect to the following course(s) and transferee institution:

Course Title	JWCC Number	Credit Hours	Transfer Equivalency or Number
1. _____	_____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____	_____
4. _____	_____	_____	_____
5. _____	_____	_____	_____
6. _____	_____	_____	_____
7. _____	_____	_____	_____

TUITION RATE AT TIME OF GUARANTEE: $_____ PER HOUR.

INSTITUTION TO WHICH CREDIT IS TO BE TRANSFERRED (TRANSFEREE INSTITUTION):

Name: _____
Address: _____

SPECIFIC PROGRAM OR MAJOR TO WHICH CREDIT IS TO BE TRANSFERRED:

_____

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: _____
_____
_____

DATE ISSUED: _____ APPROVED:

_____
Dean of Student Services

STUDENT RECEIPT

I have received and read a copy of my guarantee and understand its terms and limitations.

DATE RECEIVED: _____ _____
Student's Signature

Printed Name: _____
I.D. Number: _____

THE JWCC GUARANTEE

If JWCC says it will transfer, it will transfer – and we're willing to guarantee it...or your tuition back!

John Wood Community College is pleased to announce the program that takes the worry out of transferring courses to another college. The JWCC Credit Transfer Guarantee promises that courses taken and approved by John Wood will transfer to the institution you select. If they don't, we'll refund your tuition. No strings. No hassles. No risk.

This innovative guarantee assures all JWCC students that their courses will be honored when they transfer. JWCC is proud to be a leader in this field. Our students can transfer credits -- we guarantee it!

The credit transfer guarantee is easy to use. You simply meet with a JWCC counselor to determine which courses you want to take and where you want to transfer. The counselor will consult the school you'll be attending and immediately let you know whether we can guarantee transfer. The student and the counselor both sign the guarantee -- and that's it. Your courses will transfer or your tuition back.

Sound simple? It is. Just complete the attached card and send it back to JWCC. We'll contact you and set up an appointment with one of our counselors.

The Credit Transfer Guarantee -- another reason why when it comes to innovation, people come to John Wood.

MYTHS ABOUT TRANSFERABILITY

For whatever reasons, myths occasionally arise regarding the transferability of John Wood courses. Here are some of them -- along with some interesting facts.

Myth #1: "JWCC courses don't transfer to major universities like the University of Illinois, or to prestigious private colleges and universities."

Fact: Since our doors opened ten years ago, John Wood Community College students have transferred courses to other colleges and universities across America, both large and small, public and private. The brochure cover contains a partial list of colleges and universities that have accepted JWCC credits. Our counseling staff can work with you to insure that all your courses will transfer -- that's our Credit Transfer Guarantee.

Myth #2: "An 'A' at John Wood transfers as a 'C' to other schools."

Fact: All grades earned at John Wood are John Wood grades and remain so on your transcripts. These grades are permanent. Upon transfer, some institutions accept credits towards the advanced degree with no grade attached. In any case, your grades will never be reduced upon transfer.

Myth #3: "The courses I took at JWCC all transferred when I went to WIU, but some of the same courses didn't for my sister when she transferred to another school."

Fact: Each college and university will accept specific JWCC courses. Decisions of transferability are made by each college on a course-by-course basis, not student-by-student. Our counseling staff can determine which courses will transfer to which colleges. Once you tell us where you want to transfer, we can work with you to help you select only those courses that will transfer.

Myth #4: "You never know what will be accepted (and what won't) until you've actually transferred. By then it's too late."

Fact: Thanks to the Credit Transfer Guarantee, each JWCC student can know in advance that all his/her credits will transfer. Simply meet with a counselor and complete a credit transfer guarantee. If you later have trouble transferring, let us know. Transfer problems are frequently just miscommunication. We'll contact the college/university and resolve the problem together.

ERIC Clearinghouse for Junior Colleges
8118 Math-Sciences Building
University of California
Los Angeles, California 90024

JUL 19 1985

(Detach)

☐ Yes! I would like to apply for a John Wood Community College Credit Transfer Guarantee.
I understand that a JWCC counselor will be contacting me to schedule an appointment.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Telephone (Daytime) _____

College/University to which I will transfer: _____

This brochure is not the Credit Transfer Guarantee itself. The terms of the Guarantee are governed solely by the Guarantee which will be issued only after a student meets with a JWCC counselor and the Guarantee is approved by the JWCC Dean of Student Services. Forms are available from the JWCC counselor. Completion of this section of the brochure only indicates an interest in the program.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE